

Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility

Berkley Products Inc.

**405 South 7th Street
Akron, Pennsylvania
Congressional District 17
EPA ID #: PAD003003894
Last Updated 12/31/2003**

Site Description

The Berkley Products Inc. facility is located on 405 S. 7th Street in Akron, West Earl Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and occupies 2.5 acres. Residential properties lie east and west of the facility, while residential and commercial properties lie north and south. The facility began operations in 1955 as a manufacturer of coatings products. From 1974 until 1990, the facility also operated a solvent recovery system. Since 1990, waste solvents generated by the facility have either been disposed of at offsite facilities or recovered onsite by a contractor and then reused in facility processes. Waste solvents generated at this time are those primarily found in conventional paint products and include volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as toluene, xylene, and methyl isobutyl ketone. These wastes are stored onsite for less than 90 days before being transported offsite or recycled onsite.

Current Status of the Site

RCRA Corrective Action activities at the facility are being conducted as a cooperative effort between the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Berkley Products, Inc. Berkley has conducted cleanup activities to address past spills of VOCs and installed and sampled monitoring wells to assess the effects of these past spills and/or past facility operations on groundwater. These groundwater studies indicate VOCs are in groundwater underlying the facility property.

PADEP's Hazardous Site Cleanup Act (HSCA) program performed additional studies of the facility and surrounding properties in 2003. These studies further characterized the nature and extent of VOCs in groundwater and soils. In addition, the air in nearby residences was sampled to help determine whether airborne VOC levels may be higher than average. This sampling is in response to recent studies at other facilities which indicate that under certain conditions, VOCs in groundwater can become a vapor and migrate through soil into buildings in the same manner as natural radon gas.

Based on available information, most residences in the area of the facility are connected to a public water supply. However, a water supply inventory is being assembled to confirm that potentially impacted groundwater is not being used in a manner which would result in unacceptable exposure. PADEP plans to further characterize facility conditions and the quality of air in residences in the winter of 2004.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at this facility are being managed by EPA Region 3 with the assistance of PADEP.

Contaminants

Contaminants detected in groundwater underlying the facility include VOCs such as toluene, xylene, and trichloroethene.

Community Interaction

EPA and PADEP representatives are communicating with residents in the vicinity of the facility to keep them informed regarding investigation activities and results. Once RCRA Corrective Action investigations at the facility are completed, a public meeting will be held to discuss the results and the community and the public will be invited to comment on any proposed corrective measures for the facility.

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